

QUIXOTIC - extremely idealistic
by Joan Mish

I have been thinking about this word all week and I think I finally have an idea to write about. When my children were growing up we invited 6 children from different cultures into our home: a black student from Mississippi, 2 students from Paris, 1 student from Spain and 1 student from Italy. My children learned to be very accepting of other cultures.

Then my daughter became an exchange student her senior year in high school and lived with a family in New Zealand. In fact the sister in that family is coming to go skiing in Colorado this very week with her 3 children up in the mountains. Of course you all know it is now summertime in New Zealand. 79 degrees today in fact the mother in this family wrote me.

And then my daughter spent her junior year abroad while in college in Salamanca Spain, where our visiting Spanish student lived. In fact she lived in his house for a year while she went to the university there.

I also had a son who studied in Lancaster, England for a year. And my 4th child, a daughter, came home from college telling us that her major was going to be Russian! How strange except that her dad was a Russian historian. She studied in Russia for a semester and then went back there to teach English for a year. While she was there a second time we visited her. My husband was ecstatic when the folks at the museum in this town on the edge of Siberia asked if he would come back when he retired to run the museum. This is the city where the communist party started and he was writing his dissertation on that topic. And this city had only opened up to Americans the year before. For it was a town that build army tanks and did not want Americans in the town. This was the early 90's. BUT we were surprised how kind and generous people were to us.

The gospel today at church was about Jesus's families and how families today behave or how accepting they are with each other and with "outsiders". The gospel was telling us we are all part of one family: everyone in the world are our brother and sisters.

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Now aren't these interesting thoughts to ponder upon in today's world? To make it a peaceful world we need to be accepting of everyone: in our immediate family, neighbors of different colors and different cultures and who speak different languages. Me casa et su casa.

To me this has become the meaning of Quixotic!